

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Claims 1-58 are pending in the application. Claims 51-58 are added in this response. In the Office Action mailed October 2, 2003 (hereinafter "Office Action"), Claims 1-4, 6-7, 9, 11-12, 14, 16-18, 20, 22-23, 25, 27-29, 33, 37-38, 41, and 47-48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,166,729, issued to Acosta et al. (herein "Acosta"). Claims 5, 8, 10, 13, 15, 19, 21, 24, 26, 30-32, 39-40, 42-43, and 49-50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Acosta. Claims 34-36 and 44-46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Acosta in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,133,941, issued to Ono (herein "Ono").

Applicants submit that Claims 1-50 are in condition for allowance because the cited and applied references, alone or in combination, fail teach or suggest a system including a centralized control site including at least one server and an image database having specific functionality related to video surveillance and video monitoring. More specifically, applicants submit that the cited references fail to teach or suggest a server that archives retrieved video images in the image database for subsequent production to at least one client workstation. Additionally, applicants submit that the cited references fail to teach or suggest a server that coordinates the retrieval of video images from a number of surveillance cameras, produces live video images to off-site client workstations, and archives retrieved video images in the image database for subsequent production to at least one client workstation. Prior to providing a more detailed discussion as to the patentability of the claims of the present application, a brief discussion of the present application and cited art will be presented.

A. Summary of the Present Application

The present invention is generally directed toward a video surveillance and monitoring system including three identifiable communication layers, namely, a number of surveillance cameras, a centralized control site, and at least one off-site client workstation. See *e.g.*,

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Application, FIGURE 3. The system includes a private network operable to enable two-way communication with one or more surveillance cameras located on-site at a plurality of geographically distinct client sites. *Id.*, p. 9, lines 14-19. The centralized control site includes at least one server coupled to the private network and also to a public network. *Id.*, p. 10, lines 18-19. The server coordinates the retrieval of video images from the surveillance cameras. The server also initializes communications between the surveillance cameras and at least one off-site workstation coupled to a public network. The retrieved video images may be transmitted to off-site client workstations via control of the server. The centralized control site also includes an image database in communication with the server. *Id.*, FIGURE 3. The server further enables archiving on the image database of video images retrieved from the surveillance cameras. Those archived images may then be subsequently produced to a client workstation.

Numerous advantages may be realized in accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention. In one aspect, the present invention mitigates the need for each off-site client workstation to have autonomous capability for communicating with each individual surveillance camera by centralizing image retrieval and archiving at the centralized control site. *Id.*, p. 11, lines 4-17. In another aspect, the off-site client workstations may communicate with the centralized control site via a public network, while the security cameras maintain data communications with the centralized control site via a private network. The centralized control site can maintain initialization control of communications between the workstations and the surveillance cameras. *Id.*, p. 12, lines 3-9. This configuration inhibits unauthorized direct access of the surveillance cameras by the client workstations. Additionally, utilizing a centralized control site increases the maintainability of the software that is operative in the client workstations and central server. All software updates to the system can be effected from the central server. In still a further aspect, the centralized control site allows multiple off-site client workstations to view images retrieved and archived by the centralized control site. Additional advantages may also be realized in accordance with the present invention.

B. U.S. Patent No. 6,166,729 to Acosta et al.

Acosta is purportedly directed toward a remote viewing system for displaying images from remote digital image transmission devices. In accordance with the teachings of Acosta, the system includes a plurality of remote digital image transmission devices (12) in communication via a wireless network (14) with a central office video management system ("COVMS") (16). See Acosta, Col. 4, lines 26-29. The central office video management system is in communication, via a Web server (18) connected to the Internet (20), with a computer (22) that views images from the transmission devices. *Id.*

Acosta fails to teach or suggest a centralized off-site control site that includes a server and a video image database for archiving video images for subsequent transmission to a client workstation. Acosta also fails to teach an off-site control site that coordinates the retrieval of video images from a number of surveillance cameras, produces live video images to off-site client workstations, and archives retrieved video images in the image database for subsequent production to at least one client workstation. Acosta also fails to teach generating camera control codes at a remote location that instruct the cameras to move in a predefined position.

C. U.S. Patent No. 6,133,941 to Ono

Ono is purportedly directed to a system that allows clients to remote-control the image pickup conditions of a camera. Generally, the system includes a camera control server (11) in communication with a camera (11a). See Ono, Col. 4, lines 13-16. The camera control server is in communication with, via a network (12), a camera control client (101). See *id.* at Col. 4, lines 16-29. In operation, the camera control server (11) receives pan and tilt angles, zoom ratio, and the like, from camera control client (101), and controls the camera (11a). A display control unit (13b), located at the camera control client (101), displays an image, control status, and the like, received from the camera control server (11). See *id.* at Col. 4, lines 33-35.

Ono fails to suggest a centralized off-site control site that includes a server and a video image database for archiving images for subsequent transmission. Ono also fails to teach an off-

site control site that coordinates the retrieval of video images from a number of surveillance cameras, produces live video to off-site client workstations, and archives retrieved video in an image database for subsequent production.

II. The Claims Distinguished

A. Claim 1

Claim 1 reads as follows:

A video surveillance and monitoring system, comprising:

a private network that enables communication with surveillance cameras corresponding to geographic sites, wherein at least two surveillance cameras correspond to geographically distinct sites; and

a centralized off-site control site, including an image database and at least one server, said at least one server being coupled to said private network and to a public network, said at least one server being operative to initialize communications between the surveillance cameras and at least one off-site client workstation coupled to said public network, to coordinate the retrieval of video images from said surveillance cameras, to produce said retrieved video images as live images to the at least one client workstation, and to archive said retrieved video images in said image database for subsequent production to at least one client workstation coupled to said public network, wherein the client workstation cannot initialize communication with the surveillance cameras.

The present invention, as recited in Claim 1, describes a "centralized off-site control site, including an image database and at least one server." Claim 1 further describes that the off-site control site coordinates "the retrieval of video images from said surveillance cameras, to produce said retrieved video images as live images at the at least one client workstation, and to archive said retrieved video images in said image database for subsequent production to at least one client workstation coupled to said public network." Centralizing the image database and the server that communicates with the surveillance cameras increases the flexibility of client workstations in accessing video image data captured by surveillance cameras at geographically distinct sites. Additionally, centralization improves security because the archived video is not exposed to activity at the location of the surveillance cameras. Still further, providing the ability

to both archive the data and transmit data as live images provides the ability to both store images for later retrieval by a workstation and display images to a current workstation(s) in real time.

The Office Action asserts that Acosta discloses a "centralized offsite control site (FIGURES 1 and 16), including an image database (Col. 17, lines 48-53) and at least one server (FIGURE 5) . . . to coordinate the retrieval of video images form the cameras, to produce the retrieved video images, and to archive the retrieved video images in the database for subsequent production to at least one client workstation." Office Action, p. 3. The database referred to in Acosta at Col. 17, lines 48-53, contains the "serial ID's for all of the camera elements 12 then operating." Acosta, Col. 17, lines 51-52. There is no discussion of that database being "an image database" or that retrieved video images are archived in that database.

Additionally, referring to Acosta in its entirety, it only mentions archival of images at two locations, Col. 8, lines 9-12, and Col. 31, lines 16-17. However, those sections also fail to teach the above limitations of Claim 1. In particular, Col. 8, lines 9-12, states that "[t]he COVMS 16 processes the images and then transfers them to the storage facility for archive, to the World Wide Web 18, and to dedicated connections with the COVMS 16 of certain users, if any." Acosta is silent about the location of the storage facility where the images are archived. However, based on that section, it is known that the images are not stored at the COVMS 16 (which is asserted in the Office Action to be the centralized off-site control site), due to the statement that the COVMS transfers them to the storage facility for archive. *Id.* at lines 9-10. A second discussion of image archiving in Acosta states that the Demand-Only Mode "limits archive capabilities at the Web site 1050." Acosta, Col. 31, lines 15-17. The Web site 1050 resides on the Web Server 18, which is not part of the COVMS 16. Acosta, Col. 25, line 64-Col. 26, line 8. Thus, Acosta also fails to teach a centralized off-site control site that includes an image database for archiving images.

Additionally, because Acosta fails to teach archiving of images at a centralized off-site control site, it follows that Acosta likewise fails to teach the limitation of "archiv[ing] said

retrieved video images in said image database for subsequent production to at least one client workstation coupled to said public network."

Still further, even assuming Acosta does disclose archival of an image database that is located at the centralized off-site control site, there is simply no discussion in Acosta of both producing "retrieved video images as live images to the at least one client workstation" and archiving "retrieved video images in said image database for subsequent production to at least one client workstation," as called for in Claim 1. Applicants note that the Office Action does not identify any section of Acosta as describing both live image production and archival of images for later production.

Applicants assert that Acosta does not teach a centralized off-site control site including a server and an image database that is used to archive images. Nor does Acosta teach a centralized off-site control site that coordinates the retrieval of video images from surveillance cameras, produces the retrieved video images as live images, and archives the retrieved video images for later production. Acosta is limited to a system that utilizes a COVMS to obtain images from remote viewing systems, process those images, then transmit those images out to different sources. There is no discussion of archiving those images within the COVMS or any centralized control site. Additionally, there is no discussion of producing live images and archiving images for later production.

For the above-mentioned reasons, applicants request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection of Claim 1.

1. Claims 2-4, 6-7, 9, 11-12, and 14

Claims 2-4, 6-7, 9, 11-12, and 14 are dependent on Claim 1. As discussed above, Acosta fails to teach or suggest each of the limitations of Claim 1. Accordingly, for the above-mentioned reasons, Claims 2-4, 6-7, 9, 11-12, and 14 are allowable over Acosta. In addition, Claims 2-4, 6-7, 9, 11-12, and 14 further add limitations which distinguish them over the art cited, some of which are discussed below.

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Claim 12, as amended, adds the limitation that the off-site server is operative to "perform a course of action based upon parameters in a configuration file in response to the received event."¹ The Office Action asserts that Acosta teaches performing a course of action based upon parameters in a configuration file. As amended, however, Claim 12 requires that the course of action be in response to a received event. Applicants note that the cited portion of Acosta, Col. 13, lines 22-67, refers to a camera initialization routine. Accordingly, applicants assert that the cited references, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the additional limitation recited in Claim 12. Accordingly, applicants request the withdrawal of the § 102(e) rejection of Claims 2-4, 6-7, 9, 11-12, and 14.

B. Claim 16

In manner similar to independent Claim 1, amended independent Claim 16 recites a centralized video surveillance and monitoring control system including an image database for storing video images at an off-site server. The off-site server coordinates the retrieval of video images from the surveillance cameras, initializes communications between the surveillance cameras and at least one off-site workstation coupled to a public network, and archives retrieved video images for subsequent production to at least one client workstation. As detailed above, Acosta fails to teach a centralized video surveillance and monitoring control system including an image database and a server performing the recited functions. Additionally, as discussed above, Acosta fails to teach a video surveillance and monitoring control system that, in addition to archiving images, also provides those images as live images to off-site workstations. Accordingly, for the above reasons, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the § 102(e) rejection with regard to Claim 16.

¹ The amendment to Claim 12 presented in this response was intended to be included in the previous Amendment And Request For Reconsideration filed November 22, 2002 (herein the "November Response"). However, the Claim Amendments section of the November Response did not illustrate the amendment and only argument was presented in the Remarks Section. Accordingly, applicants are presenting the amendment to Claim 12 in this response along with the arguments originally presented in support of that amendment.

C. Claim 17

In manner similar to independent Claims 1 and 16, independent Claim 17, as amended, recites a video surveillance and monitoring method that includes "receiving video images from a surveillance camera," "producing said received video image data as live images to at least one client workstation," and "archiving said received video image data in an image database for subsequent production to at least one client workstation, wherein the image database is located at a centralized off-site control site with the control server." (Emphasis added.) As stated above with respect to Claims 1 and 16, Acosta fails to teach a centralized control site that performs each of the recited limitations. Further, applicants assert that Acosta fails to teach an image database for archiving retrieved images for subsequent transmission to a client workstation, wherein the image database is located at a centralized off-site control site with the control server. For these reasons, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the § 102(e) rejection with regard to Claim 17.

D. Claims 18, 20, 22-23, and 25

Claims 18, 20, 22-23, and 25 depend from Claim 17 and are therefore patentable over Acosta for at least the reasons recited above. Furthermore, the dependent claims include additional elements that further distinguish them over the art cited, some of which are discussed below.

Amended Claim 23 adds to the non-obviousness of applicants' invention by including the limitations of "receiving event data from a client site" and "performing a course of action based upon parameters in a configuration file in response to the event data."² As stated above with regard to Claim 12, Claim 23 recites that the course of action be in response to a received event.

² The amendment to Claim 23 presented in this response was intended to be included in the November Response. However, the Claim Amendments section of the November Response did not illustrate the amendment and only argument was presented in the Remarks Section. Accordingly, applicants are presenting the amendment to Claim 23 in this response along with the arguments originally presented in support of that amendment.

In contrast, the cited references are silent upon post-event action initiation. Applicants assert that the cited references, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the additional limitations recited in Claim 23.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully request a withdrawal of the § 102(e) rejection with regard to Claims 18, 20, 22-23, and 25.

E. Claim 27

In a manner similar to independent Claims 1, 16, and 17, independent Claim 27 recites a video surveillance and monitoring method as follows:

In an environment including at least one control server coupled to a private network that enables communication with surveillance cameras at a plurality of geographically distinct client sites, a method in a client workstation for retrieving and viewing video images, captured by said surveillance cameras, that are stored in an image database by the at least one server, comprising:

(a) receiving computer program logic from the control server that enables the client workstation to display a graphical user interface that includes a plurality of client-site elements representative of a corresponding plurality of geographically distinct client sites, wherein each of said plurality of client-site elements are associated with one or more camera elements representative of one or more cameras located at a client site represented by said client-site element, wherein said server has access to an image database that stores video image data captured by cameras at a plurality of geographically distinct client sites, and wherein said control server and said image database are located at a centralized off-site control site;

(b) receiving a command from a user to select from a first camera element representative of a first camera at a first client site;

(c) sending a request to the control server for retrieval of video image data, recorded by said first camera, that is archived in the image database; and

(d) displaying said requested video image data in an image viewing window of said graphical user interface.

As discussed above, Acosta fails to teach a centralized off-site control site containing both a centralized server and the image database, as recited in Claim 27. Accordingly, for these

reasons, applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the § 102(e) rejection with regard to Claim 27.

1. Claims 28-29

Claims 28-29 depend from Claim 27 and are therefore patentable over Acosta for at least the reasons recited above. Furthermore, the dependent claims include additional limitations that further distinguish them over the art cited. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request a withdrawal of the § 102(e) rejection with regard to Claims 28-29.

F. Claims 5, 8, 10, 13, 15, 19, 21, 24, 26, 30-32, 39-40, 42-43, and 49-50

Claims 5, 8, 10, 13, 15, 19, 21, 24, 26, 30-32, 39-40, 42-43, and 49-50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Acosta. Claims 5, 8, 10, 13, 15, 31-32, and 39-40 each depend from independent Claim 1, and are patentable over Acosta for at least the reasons stated above with respect to Claim 1. Claims 19, 21, 24, 26, 42-43, and 49-50 each depend from independent Claim 17, and are patentable for at least the reasons stated above for that claim. Claim 30 depends from Claim 27 and is patentable for at least the reasons provided above for Claims 27.

For each of those claims, official notice was taken in the Office Action that the limitations recited in those claims are well known in the art. Applicants point out that, as stated in *In re Ahlert*, 424 F.2d 1088, 1091 (C.C.P.A. 1970), the notice of facts beyond the record that may be taken by the Patent Office must be "capable of such instant and unquestionable demonstration as to defy dispute" (citing *In re Knapp Monarch Co.*, 296 F.2d 230, (C.C.P.A. 1961)). While applicants do not believe it necessary to challenge the basis of the official notice contentions at this time, applicants do assert that the limitations recited in dependent Claims 5, 8, 10, 13, 15, 19, 21, 24, 26, 30-32, 39-40, 42-43, and 49-50 add to the nonobviousness of applicants' invention.

Accordingly, because the claims depend from independent Claims 1, 17, and 27, which are patentable, and because the dependent claims add to nonobviousness, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection is requested.

G. Claims 34-36 and 44-46

Claims 34-36 and 44-46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Acosta in view of Ono. In particular, the Office Action asserts that "Ono teaches a camera control server (FIGS. 1, 11) generating a camera control code (11b) for instructing the cameras to move in a predefined position after a designated period of time." Office Action, p. 6. Claim 34 depends from independent Claim 1 and is patentable over Acosta for at least the reasons presented above with respect to Claim 1. Claims 35-36 and 44-46 depend from independent Claim 17 and are patentable over Acosta for at least the reasons presented above. Additionally, applicants assert that the combination of Acosta and Ono fails to resolve the deficiencies of Acosta that are discussed above.

In particular, Ono, like Acosta, does not teach the limitations of "a centralized off-site control site, including an image database and at least one server . . . said at least one server being operative to . . . produce said retrieved video images as live images to the at least one client workstation, and to archive said retrieved video images in said image database for subsequent production," as called for in Claim 1. Similarly, referring to Claim 17, Ono also fails to teach the limitation of "wherein the image database is located at a centralized off-site control site with the control server."

As discussed above, Ono describes a system that allows remote control of image pickup conditions of a camera. There is no discussion in Ono regarding a centralized off-site control site, including an image database and at least one server. Still further there is no discussion in Ono of such a centralized control site that both produces live video and archives video for later production. Indeed, there is simply no discussion in Ono regarding storage and/or archiving of images. Applicants note that the Office Action does not identify any location in Ono as teaching

those limitations. Thus, Ono, like Acosta, fails to teach each of the limitations of Claims 34-36 and 44-46.

Because Acosta and Ono fail to teach each of the limitations of Claims 34-36 and 44-46, the combination of Acosta and Ono cannot render those claim obvious. Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of Claims 34-36 and 44-46 is respectfully requested.

II. Miscellaneous

A. Attorney Docket Number

Please also amend the Attorney Docket Number to read as follows—VIGL-1-18042—and delete the previous Attorney Docket Number of EYEC-001/00U.

B. Other Claim Amendments

It has come to applicants' attention that during prosecution, certain discrepancies have appeared with respect to Claims 1, 12, 17, 23, and 27. The amendments to those claims in this response and this discussion are intended to clarify the prosecution of those claims.

With respect to Claim 1, in the November Response, the limitation --an off-site storage site-- was amended to read "a centralized off-site control site." However, the term "centralized" was not clearly identified as being an addition to the claim. This response presents that addition of "centralized" in proper form.

Additionally, in the Appendix of the November Response, the phrase --coupled to said public network--was inadvertently enclosed by brackets. That limitation was not intended to be deleted from the claim and appears in the November Response's "clean" version of the claim, as well as in this response.

The amendments, presented in this response to Claims 12 and 23 were intended to be included in the November Response and were even argued in that response. However, these amendments did not appear in the claims of the November response. This response includes the intended amendments and repeats those arguments.

Referring to Claim 17, the steps are properly labeled (a), (b), and (c). In the Appendix of the November Response, they were inadvertently labeled as (a), (d), and (e). The correct labeling appears in this response.

Finally, in the Appendix of the November Response, the steps of Claim 27 were inadvertently labeled (h), (i), (j), and (k). The proper labeling of those steps, as filed and reproduced herein, is (a), (b), (c), and (d).

The amendments to Claims 1, 12, 17, 23, and 27, as discussed above, are intended to clarify prosecution. Accordingly, Claims 1, 12, 17, 23, and 27 are believed patentable.

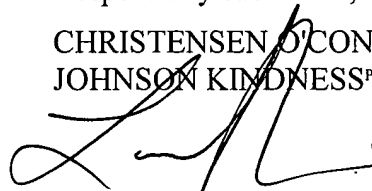
CONCLUSION

Based on the above-referenced arguments, applicants respectfully submit that all the claims of the present application, Claims 1-58, are allowable over the cited reference. Because the cited and applied references fail to teach a centralized off-site control site, including an image database and at least one server, wherein the centralized off-site control site both produces live video and archives video for later production, applicants respectfully requests withdrawal of all the rejections of the claims and allowance of the present application.

If any questions remain, applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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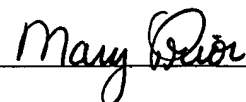


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